

**Allan Park South Church of Scotland, Stirling**  
**Registered Charity No. SC001414**  
**Minute of a meeting of Allan Park South Church Session**  
**Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7pm**

**Constitute**

The meeting was constituted by readings from Luke 5: 33-39, followed by a prayer by the Rev. Lynne Mack.

**Sederunt**

The Rev. Lynne Mack and a number of Trustees as recorded in attendance book. Apologies for absence were received from Jane Harris

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Kirk Session held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were approved by Arthur McDonald and seconded by Sally Forshaw

**Matters Arising**

No matters arising other than that already notified to come up

**Notification of AOB**

Payment to Very Rev Albert Bogle/SanctuaryFirst for pulpit supply

Stirling Marathon & Half Marathon (Christian Aid fundraising ?)

Elders rota for funeral support

Appointment of Basis of Union team

Partnership opportunity

Ownership of Church building and Manse & History

Baptism

Attestation of records

/ records

### **Finance Report**

Ed Morton reported :-

Bank balance as at 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 was **£47492.14**

Of which:

**Unrestricted funds £ 30833.66**

**Restricted funds £ 16658.48**

INCOME COMPARISON				
DATE RANGE 12th February to 11th February				
INCOME TYPE	2017/2018	2018/2019	VALUE +/-	% +/-
Gift Aid	£29,355.20	£27,529.20	-£1,826.00	-6.22%
Freewill Offerings	£2,045.90	£1,979.23	-£66.67	-3.26%
Open Plate	£4,109.41	£4,176.26	£66.85	1.63%
Mission and Renewal	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
Hire of Premises	£11,665.00	£13,065.00	£1,400.00	12.00%
Sundry Income	£1,237.34	£1,427.19	£189.85	15.34%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£48,412.85</b>	<b>£48,176.88</b>	<b>-£235.97</b>	<b>-0.49%</b>

The primary task since the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 has been the production of the year-end accounts. I do not therefore have a breakdown of restricted funding but am aware that Jim Steel is currently working on a budget breakdown.

The Gift Aid for 2018/19 includes funds received from First Fruits in the sum of £5000. At the request of the benefactors, this amount has now been moved into a new Restricted fund. This means that the value of GA in the chart is reduced to £22529. Similarly, the Unrestricted bank balance reduces to £25833 and the restricted balance increases to £21658.

*(Noted: Two issues were raised that still need tidied up in the accounts : Jim will speak to French Duncan, our accountants, on how to resolve the organ fund as currently shown in the accounts, and also the fabric fund.*

*The First Fruits money received has now moved to a reserved fund as the funders initially requested it to be.*

*Ed noted that he will present the accounts in detail at the Annual Stated Meeting and at the March Kirk Session meeting.)*

*[meeting.]*

## **Emerging Church Project Manager Report**

Sally Forshaw reported :-

### **Contact the Elderly**

We hosted the Christmas event for the service user's drivers and team leaders. It was a great afternoon and everyone enjoyed the food and music. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to serve and to Jim who provided the music.

### **Bairns Rock**

Our Bairns Rock Christmas fundraiser raised approx. £500 so in total for both the Halloween and Christmas fundraisers brought in £1000 which is amazing. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped to make it a success especially Santa who made an appearance.

Laura St John has been employed in the Bairns Rock post and we have another returning volunteer to help out which is great. We are averaging 24 children per week with about 5 new families attending.

Our inter-generational project started on the 29<sup>th</sup> January which was a bad weather day and disappointingly we had no a no show. The following week we had one parent and a child so some work to be done here. We are only looking for a small group so it is hard to widely advertise but we will slowly build up.

### **Lunch Club**

Paula Freck has been appointed as lunch club co-ordinator with a responsibility for Allan Park House monthly outreach. This has been going really well and Paula is embracing the new post. Our joint Christmas tea dance/lunch club Christmas party was amazing and really busy with a great atmosphere. Westerlands Home has increased their connection with us and are bringing between 4 and 9 people along to join us at the lunch club and have 2 ladies interested in the intergenerational project. Phoebe and Justine from the Agape Church wish to provide us with soup and cakes at lunch club one week so we have organised this for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February. An anonymous donor has paid for soup for the lunch club for 5 weeks. We note thanks for their generous donation. Our numbers are up with a steady 24-30 each week.

### **Choir**

Choir is amazing and continues to attract new members with 24-30 attending each week.

### **Funding**

I have made an application to the Round Table for money towards another set of tables to be kept for us upstairs.

/ upstairs.

Jane S and I attended a funding breakfast with the Postcode Lottery to find out the criteria required for an application. Our tea dance funding comes to an end at the end of May so I propose we put in an application to continue these as we fit into the criteria.

### **Working with our Communities**

Jim and I attended a Go for It workshop to look at how we engage effectively with our communities. Jane and I attended a Forth Valley conference Growing your Communities today with a variety of workshops and networking available.

### **Meetings and Partners**

I met with Joanne from SVE in January and this has resulted in two new volunteer requests this month and another enquiry today.

I have finally secured a meeting with Elaine from Forth Valley College next week.

### **Volunteers**

2 new volunteers signed up with 2 more enquiries this week. Fifteen volunteers attended the Church of Scotland safeguarding training which took place in APS in January.

### **Administration Report**

Jane Steel reported on behalf of Jane Harris :-

Jane Steel and I are the two volunteers in this area. Sally Forshaw has recently spoken with an external volunteer who is particularly interested in doing PowerPoints (the system we use for projecting the Sunday service to the screens). This could be very useful though services are often finalised quite late in the week which could be problematic.

#### **Main tasks:**

- PowerPoint and order of service for Sunday. Following discussion at the last Kirk Session, we are no longer doing notices for the screens. Comments on order of service/notice sheets welcomed.
- Newsletter – is it worth carrying on with? The current one runs out at the start of March. For discussion: could we use email more? For what things?
- Welcome team and readers' rota – completed to end of June.
- Stirling Observer notices

/notices

- Hall bookings. There has been quite a flurry of enquiries, partly due to substantially raised rents elsewhere but it seems this is now resolved. Use of halls is up overall, eg Agape Church, which increases wear and tear and the need for cleaning. Are the cleaner's hours sufficient? A small work party (3 or 4 people for a morning) to give the kitchen a thorough clean would also be a good idea. I can't do anything before early March.

*(Noted: It was agreed by the Kirk Session that the newsletter should remain in place if we can as it was felt to be an essential communication method to our congregation.)*

### **Fabric / Property Report**

#### **Manse**

David reported that the manse work is 'nearly' finished, although he had to complete some of the work himself due to the plumber (having been paid before work was completed), never appearing again. The manse will need a final tidy up and a clean before it can be rented out.

It was agreed that David should proceed to get the manse rented out via Property Bureau with immediate effect.

David to advise to everyone how the review should take place, and also to organise cleaning of the manse

#### **Church**

The annual review needs carried out. Jim and Phil will review the Sanctuary and Office, listing all equipment in place and who owns it. David, Gerry and John will review the rest of the building. Jane S and Sally will review the kitchen.

The rear of the boiler room will be the Men's Shed – Initial plans include creation of a garden rockery and organisation of away days. It was agreed this was a good opportunity to invite St Columbas men to join with us in the Mens Shed group.

### **Safeguarding Report**

Lorna Shaw reported :-

A successful Safeguarding Training was held in the Church Sanctuary on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019. 15 volunteers attended this training. Thanks to Sally and Natalie for organising lunch afterwards.

Another training will be organised for the Elders and one for the Volunteers who couldn't make it to the last one. This is a mandatory requirement for all Volunteers.

/ Volunteers.

We have new volunteers for Bairns Rock, Lunch Club and the Boys' Brigade so a few PVGs to put through.

A Safeguarding Checklist has to be completed each year to assess how well we are protecting children, and adults at risk from harm. They advise 1 or 2 members of the Kirk Session to do this and preferably not members of the Safeguarding Panel.

Any volunteers? – Mary agreed to do this so just need one more volunteer ideally.

### **Presbytery Report**

Arthur MacDonald reported :-

RE: PRESBYTERY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

### **Business Committee**

The Presbytery of Stirling has been allocated 11 commissioners Ministers and 11 from equalising elders and a deacon to attend the General Assembly in June 2019

Commissions will be offered to the Rev Dorothy Anderson, Associate Minister Dunblane Cathedral, and Jean Porter Deacon from St Marks, Raploch.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a meeting will take place between the Presbytery's of Stirling and Falkirk to consider the possibilities of further collaboration .

St Mungo's Church in Alloa is celebrating it's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **Church in Community**

The Church and Society Council and the Presbytery of Stirling Dementia Awareness Seminar is to be held in Allan Park South Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 from 10- 4.00pm, with Bonny McDowell ,as facilitator

The World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 1st March 2019.

### **Church and Global Society**

The Start-Up Stirling group at Hillpark Community Centre, Bannockburn has been closed and those using this facility are being directed to St Columba's Church in Stirling who also host a Start-Up Stirling foodbank.

Food banks in Stirling would benefit from a repeat of last year's Lent Challenge to give them a boost in donations. Let's see what APS can do !!!!

/do !!!!

*(Noted : All members of APS are encouraged to save £1 a day (or whatever amount you can afford) every day throughout Lent and hand this in to APS after Lent, for donation to Start-Up Stirling, to help families and individuals in need)*

### **Worship Leader Training**

Note Training for this event especially to help Worship Groups. The session clerks ,if anybody is interested in this course, should hand their names to Maggie Roddick. *(Note: APS has already sent a list of names to be included in this training)*

### **Stewardship Report**

Clackmannan Parish Church is seeking approval to erect a plaque indicating that the Church has reached the grand old age of 200 years of age. Do you think that APS should seek permission to do the same [150 years last year] ? *(Note: No support for erecting a plaque at APS was raised, however if anyone wishes to see this happen, please let Arthur know)*

Presbytery instructs the 10 remaining Congregations to send their Stewardship Returns to the Stewardship convener asap. *(Note: APS's return is yet to be submitted)*

### **Ad Hoc Committee on the revision of the Presbytery Plan**

There was a brief report on the above suffice to say that things are progressing slowly.

APS needs to meet with St Columba's to start the dialogue on the union and also to have a conversation on having joint services.

*(Noted: 3 elders met 2 weeks ago with the 3 selected facilitators from Presbytery to start initial discussions on the process – this will be followed by a meet of the 3 facilitators plus 5 APS elders, then a meet of the full Basis Of Union team in due course)*

These were some of the main issues which are worth mentioning from the latest Presbytery meeting.

### **Also:-**

Coffee morning to be held in the Bridge of Allan Parish Church on 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 12noon, to raise funds for support groups at Cornton Prison

### **Roll Keeper Report**

Hugh Buchanan reported :-

There have been the following changes to the Roll since the start of 2019.

### **Additions**

*By profession of faith - None*

/ None

*As adherent* - None

### **Removals**

*By certificate of transference* - Mrs Betty Morton, Stirling – to St Ninian's Old Parish Church

*By death* - Mrs Catherine Hunter, St Ninians (January 2019) *and* Mr David Stewart, St Ninians (February 2019)

After these changes, there are 160 names on the roll, including 8 adherents.

*(Noted: Ed asked to be notified of any deaths in order that he can update his contact list so as not to send out stewardship requests inappropriately)*

*Lynne noted that the review of the electoral roll needs to be notified to the congregation on each of the two weeks before the next Kirk session meeting – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

*Lynne also asked that elders who no longer attend church and Kirk Session meetings, should be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list of elders or if they wish to be marked as inactive)*

### **Worship and Music Report**

Jim Steel reported :-

Sunday worship is going well and our regular ministry team in Gordon Mathew, Mike Dawson and Albert Bogle who have provided a great diversity in service style, it was also lovely to have support from Maggie Rodderick in her ministry provision which was well supported.

Going forward we need to consider what the plan and purpose is for service is for Apr through to June - Can we aspire to aim for a service with a difference or should we just be happy with providing a service ?

With the help from a few volunteers (thank you !) we have been able to install high quality cameras and new Digital audio sound mixers that enable a networked sound and video which can provide a Stream format which will be the basis for streaming mid weeks events and music groups as well as part of the Sunday service if a short format can be developed.



/ developed.

As well as supporting Sunday service we continue to support evening music nights and mainstream Music community within the Sanctuary with the aim of providing music expertise and friendship.

### **Correspondence**

Jane Steel attended the Stirling Kirks Together meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, having been invited to go in place of Bill Jamieson. It was a good meeting with representatives of all Stirling Churches present. Minutes to follow separately to all.

An opportunity is available to Churches across the Stirling area to seek support with understanding and assessing hearing access with regards to church buildings and church services. Jane Steel has contacted the organisers of this to arrange for an audit of our facility.

### **AOB**

#### **Payment to Very Rev Albert Bogle/SanctuaryFirst for pulpit supply**

Payment for Pulpit Supply comes from Ministries and Mission payment and is due to all Ministers providing pulpit supply. It was agreed therefore that it was acceptable to make Albert's payment direct to Sanctuary First at his request rather than to Albert individually

#### **Stirling Marathon & Half Marathon (Possible Christian Aid fundraising ?)**

It was discussed that the half marathon would run past APS about 8.30am and Hugh noted that very few people are watching on the streets at that time. It was therefore agreed that we would not hold any fundraising event outside APS. We have asked St Columbas to hold an event, with our support, outside their church as the full Marathon finishes close by them, and due to large crowds expected, it would be a great fundraising and community outreach opportunity. Two years ago when APS held a Big Breakfast & All day Cake and Coffe on Marathon day, we raised over £1200 for Christian Aid. St Columbas currently do not think this is something they wish to support as Peter Murdoch, their Session Clerk, felt it likely to be too disruptive to move their Sunday morning service to evening. We hope they will proceed

/proceed

### **Elders rota for funeral support**

Lynne asked for volunteers from the Kirk Session to cover funerals as there have been 4 in the last 4 months. Sally kindly offered to help with the funeral in February, but it was agreed that whoever is on welcome duty the week before should cover it if at all possible.

### **Appointment of Basis of Union team**

We had 6 people who volunteered to join the Basis of Union team, so since only 5 are allowed on the team, we took a vote. The 5 people chosen were Sally Forshaw, Arthur MacDonald, Jim Steel, Hugh Buchanan and Jane Steel.

### **Partnership opportunity**

Jim Steel reported:-

Following the recommendation of Stirling Presbytery to look for and find partners within Community and Church that might work with APS to fulfill our community engagement/outreach?

Sanctuary First are considering creating a physical base within Stirling to host a Music, Media and Worship centre which would host the creative artist community, with the purpose of creating Broadcast events through live and recorded video streaming.

There is an opportunity for APS to consider hosting of this Centre within its building, temporarily or for the longer term once these exact needs have been defined. In principle would APS like to be considered to host these Sanctuary First activities and provide the use of the sanctuary as a trial ?

*(Noted: It was agreed by the Kirk Session that in principal we would like to be considered for hosting this)*

I have also planned follow up meetings with the follow potential partners with a view to find common areas of Mission work within the Stirling community.

Sanctuary first.

Mission centre ( as above)

/ above)

United Christian Broadcast (UCB)	UCB Stirling hosting
Bakersfield Mission team USA.	Mission sharing and support
Robertson trust	Social enterprise funding
Stirling City Community radio	Community broadcasting

I'd like the KS support to continue to discuss, in principle partnership opportunity's, and I will report any opportunity as they arise for discussion.

*(Note: It was agreed by the Kirk Session that Jim should continue to pursue these opportunities)*

### **Ownership of Church building and Manse & History**

The following report was received from Neil Malcolm on the history of transactions made over many years on the Church Manse and the Church Building.

When I became Treasurer of Allan Park Church in the late 1960s the Congregation owned 3 properties:- the Church in Dumbarton Road, the Manse at 32 Snowdon Place and the Beadle's house in Dumbarton Road at the corner of Allan Park. All 3 titles were vested in the congregation as is normal for an old UP congregation.

The first property transaction I was involved in was the sale of the Beadle's house as it was no longer required. The sale proceeds were credited to the Fabric Fund.

I remember that at some time, fairly early in my treasurer ship we, along with every other congregation whose property was locally held, were invited to transfer our titles to the General Trustees – I cannot remember what reason was given, but it was voluntary and the board of managers as it was at that time unanimously decided to retain the status quo.

In due course the union with the South Church took place and our Clerk to the board, James D Kennedy became the Clerk to the united congregation and had to deal with the property transactions which were necessary. He discovered that the South Church had also decided to retain the titles to its property in its own hands and after a survey report on the two manses, ours in Snowdon Place and the South Church manse at 13 Park Terrace there was no doubt that the Snowdon Place manse should be retained and Park Terrace was sold with the proceeds of sale again credited to the Fabric Fund.

/Fund

There remained the question of the South Church building the sale of which took some considerable time but it was eventually sold to the Baptist Church for £100,000 which again was credited to the Fabric Fund.

The next property transaction took place when the then Session Clerk, James Morton, suggested to the Minister Rev Iain McCallum, that he might like to consider retiring. His difficulty was he had nowhere to live and he was offered the possibility of the congregation providing him with a retirement home for him and his wife wherever he would like to stay in his retirement and he chose St. Andrews. The flat at 8b Hope Street was purchased for this purpose using funds from the Fabric Fund. Rev. McCallum and his wife lived there rent free until the death of his wife and his move to a care home in St Andrews. The flat was retained by the congregation for many years thereafter and we benefited from a regular rental income from student lets.

The next change was the linkage with the Church of the Holy Rude when again the question of which manse to use had to be addressed. The two manses were ours in Snowdon Place and Holy Rude's in Drummond Place and this time it was decided to sell both and buy a different property which was a flat in Drummond Place which was occupied by Rev Iain Davidson until he retired. Our half share of the cost of this property was met from the Fabric Fund into which the proceeds of sale of Snowdon Place had already been credited.

After Rev Davidson's retirement the next minister was Rev Morris Coull and as the flat was not suitable for him as he had a family the flat was sold and the present manse at 22 Laurelhill Place was purchased and again our half share of the purchase price was met from locally held funds in the Fabric Fund.

There followed a lengthy vacancy during which time the empty manse at 22 Laurelhill Place was rented out by Graham & Sibbald. It was then that I had a battle with the General Trustees about our half share of the rent. The difficulty was that the Holy Rude had acceded to the request to hand over their titles to the General Trustees and all of their property transactions were carried out by the General Trustees and I think that the title was held in the name of the General Trustees albeit we had provided our half share from locally held funds. Thus the rent was to be paid in full to the General Trustees and one half would be retained by them on our behalf and if we wanted to use any of this money we would have to apply to the General Trustees giving reasons for why it was needed. I was particularly unhappy about this and I got the backing of the board with one or two exceptions to take my case to 121 which I did and won with what I thought was a face saving proviso that instead of Graham & Sibbald sending me a cheque for half and a cheque for half to 121 the whole lot had to be sent to the General Trustees who would then send me a cheque for our half!

Yet more changes when the Presbytery decided to break the linkage with the Holy Rude and we had to buy out their half share of 22 Laurelhill Place which we were able to do by selling the flat at 8b Hope Street St Andrews.

/Andrews.

This is a hastily compiled summary of the position as regards our various properties and it is quite clear that the funds behind both of the properties owned by the congregation are 100% locally held.

To summarise the present position, the title deeds of the Church building will still be vested in the Trustees of the Congregation as none of the property transactions have affected the Church buildings.

With regards to the Manse the only reason that the title deeds are with the General Trustees is the result of the period of our linkage with the Church of the Holy Rude whose titles were held by the General Trustees. It is a basic fact nevertheless that the whole cost of the Manse in Laurelhill Place has been funded from locally held funds of our Congregation and in my view they should be vested in the name of the Trustees of the Congregation which they would have been had we not had the period of linkage with the Holy Rude. This was the basis of the case I took to the General Trustees and won which I referred to earlier.

### **Baptism**

An adult baptism will be held at 12.30pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March of a young man, Owain Richins Clark, and he will be accompanied by some of his family and friends in a private ceremony. Rev Lynne Mack will conduct the baptism.

### **Attestation of records**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, APS are to deliver the following records for attestation

Kirk Session Minutes

Baptismal Register

Communion Roll

Property

Safeguarding SG11- SG

Minister's Log Book in a sealed envelope (only for Ministers in Charges, who claim mileage allowance)

Arthur MacDonald, our Presbytery Elder, will take the records to Presbytery on behalf of the Kirk Session.

/Session.

**The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm**

**MODERATOR**

**CLERK**